

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223584

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLTEL FM JIDDA 12 NOV 73 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO
ABU DHABI ALGIERS AMMAN BEIRUT DHAHRAN KHARTOUM KUWAIT
MANAMA RABAT SANAA TRIPOLI TUNIS AND LONDON REPEATED
TO YOU

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5010

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD
STATE PASS CAIRO
KUWAIT PASS DOHA, MUSCAT
LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

TOKYO FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, XF, SA

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SUPPORT BY SAQQAF FOR KISSINGER

SUMMARY. MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF HAS PUBLICLY
ASSERTED STRONG SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF SECRETARY IN ME
SETTLEMENT. HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MET
REPEATEDLY WITH HIM IN NEW YORK AND KNEW OF SAUDI ARABIA'S
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INTEREST IN PEACE ON THE BASIS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO SELF-
DETERMINATION. SAQQAF FLEW OFF TO DAMASCUS ON ASSIGNMENT FROM
FAISAL TO BRIEF SYRIAN OFFICIALS ON THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS. THE STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SAQQAF IS
HELPFUL TO THE US POSITION IN THE KINGDOM. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF SPEAKING AT RIYADH
AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY
KISSINGER NOV 9 TOLD REPORTERS FROM
BOTH FOREIGN AND SAUDI NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS
THAT KING FAISAL HAD FULLY EXPLAINED THE POLICY
OF SAUDI ARABIA IN A QUOTE THOROUGH AND
GOOD MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER UNQUOTE. SAQQAF ADDED
THAT THE SECRETARY HAD A QUOTE TRUE DESIRE TO EXERT ALL
THAT CAN BE DONE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
UNQUOTE. THE SAUDI PRESS QUOTED SAQQAF AS HOPING THAT
THE TALKS IN RIYADH HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN COMING
TO THE REALIZATION OF TH BASIS ON WHICH PEACE CAN BE
BUILT, NAMELY THE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
AND THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. SAQQAF REITERATED SAUDI ARABIAN INTEREST IN ANY STEP
TAKEN TOWARDS SETTLING THE PROBLEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS. HE
NOTED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD HAD FOUR MEETINGS WITH HIM IN
NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND THAT HE QUOTE KNOWS OUR VIEW-
POINTS AND WE KNOW HIS UNQUOTE.

3. SAQQAF FLEW TO BEIRUT AND DROVE TO DAMASCUS ON NOV 10,
THE DAY AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE SECRETARY, PRESUMABLY
TO BRIEF SYRIAN OFFICIALS ON THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY
THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. COMMENT: SAQQAF'S AIRPORT STATEMENTS UNUSUAL
AND REFLECT THE EXCELLENT PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS
THE SECRETARY MADE ON HIS SAUDI HOSTS; THEY ALSO
ARE A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THE POSITION OF
THE USG IN SAUDI ARABIA.
AKINS UNQTE RUSH

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